



Peace

WORSHIP OF GOD | DECEMBER 8, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT | PAGEANT SUNDAY
First Rochester | An American Baptist Church
175 Allens Creek Road | Rochester, New York 14618 | rochesterfbc.org
Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon, senior pastor | Eliecia Young, pastoral assistant
Henry Griffin, music director | Samuel Baker, organist

WORSHIP OF GOD

Feel free to use any gender-neutral language in hymns or responses.

Prelude

In the Bleak Midwinter
Improvisation on piano by Henry Griffin

Gustav T. Holst

Chiming of the Hour

Music for Gathering *Happy Christmas (War is Over)* John Lennon & Yoko Ono
arr. Mark Niskanen

Naomi Chad, soprano; Emma Unkrich, mezzo; Joshua Gleason, tenor;
Ashton Rapp, baritone; Henry Griffin, piano

Welcome

Seth Oaks

Lighting of the Advent Candle *by Rev. Susan A. Blain* The Selleck Family

One: We dream God's dream, of a world at peace
Where enemies are reconciled, and children play in safety;
Where the poor and powerless find justice.
We remember God's promise of a Ruler of Peace,
Filled with the Spirit of God, of wisdom and understanding,
Of counsel and might, of justice and faithfulness.
We light this Advent candle, and we pray:

All: Come Lord Jesus!
Open our lives to the Peace which you bring.
Let us turn to you, and get ready!

Call to Worship

written by Joanna Harader

Amelia Wilson

One: In these darkening days,

All: we come seeking peace.

One: We seek serenity within ourselves.

All: We seek harmony within our families.

One: We seek goodwill among our neighbors.

All: We seek a ceasefire among all nations.

One: We seek not just the absence of conflict,

All: but the presence of Shalom—

One: the abiding peace, the healing life, the unrelenting justice,

**All: the Shalom that God calls us to in Christ. Let us worship the
God of Peace.**

***Hymn 193** *Sing We Now of Christmas* French Carol

Scriptures *Isaiah 9:2* Mitchell Young

Morning Prayer Eliecia Young, George Haefele

Sharing our joys and concerns

Unison Lord's Prayer

Special Music *Sussex Carol* Traditional English Carol

Oliver Hood, cello; Doleen Hood, piano arr. Christopher Ruck

Scripture *Luke 1:26-35 & John 1:14* Aria Wilson

***Hymn 185** *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* Wesley/Mendelsohn

Pageant *A Very Mixed-Up Christmas Pageant* by Gwynne Watkins

Giving our Gifts to God & Dedication Gavin Smith

Music for Response Henry Griffin, piano

Doxology 34 *Praise God* *Genevan Psalter*

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Invitation to Mission and Ministry Pastor Joanne

***Closing Hymn 198** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* Latin Carol,

German melody

Benediction Seth Oaks

Thank you to others who contributed their gifts today: including worship leaders, our children; ushers: Dick Wien and Ken Hines; fellowship: Pizza in Hubbell Hall; our pageant leaders: Nan Wilson, Judy Oaks, Kate Selleck; pageant participants: Oliver Hood, Reverend; Sophie Spooner, Sophie; Wes Selleck, Narrator 1; Zander Selleck, Narrator 2; Mitchell Young, Gabriel; Aria Wilson, Mary; George Haefele, Joseph; Gavin Smith, Herod; Maddox Young & Ethan Spooner, Magi; Amelia Wilson, Star; Leah Oaks, Unicorn; Elise Aitkenhead, Angel; Seth Oaks & Hudson Aitkenhead, Shepherds; Andrew Wilson, Drew; our tech team: Wes Selleck, Justin Selleck, Oliver Hood, Scott and Susen McClellan, Glenn Stahl, and Janet Richardson; and our musicians: Naomi Chadd, soprano; Emma Unkrich, mezzo-soprano; Joshua Gleason, tenor; and Ashton Rapp, baritone, First Rochester Children's Choir; Oliver Hood, cello; Doleen Hood piano, and Henry Griffin, piano, music director.

INVITATION TO MISSION AND MINISTRY

We welcome you to First Rochester, regardless of race, class, gender, physical challenge, place of origin, or sexual orientation. **If you're new with us**, please fill out the **connection card** found in your pew and drop it with the offering. We look forward to getting to know you better!

A special thank you to our children and their leaders, for leading us in worship and presenting the Christmas story through the pageant.

Pizza Event: Following the Pageant today around 11:30 AM, there will be a pizza party in Hubbell Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Dedication Poinsettias: Order your plant(s) in memory or honor of someone special and help us decorate the sanctuary for the season. Orders must be received by **noon on December 11**. Plants may be taken home on December 24 or 29.

Mid-week Meditation Service, Wednesdays in December. On Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM, we will hold a special one-hour service in the chapel. There will be readings, repetitive songs, silence, prayer, and meditation. This service enhances a deeper connection with God in a contemplative way. Please come and experience this unique and inspiring worship opportunity.

OWLS will meet on Thursday, December 12. The topic will be: *Silly Songs*. Chair exercise 11:30 AM. Lunch and program at 12:15 PM. Donations welcomed. Please RSVP kandeetabor@gmail.com.

Join us next Sunday, December 15 for a very special debut performance of this year's **Cantata**, featuring the First Rochester Choir with special musical guests from Eastman School of Music and written especially for First Rochester by Henry Griffin. The Cantata will be a musical sermon as part of the Sunday Service at 10 AM.

The Giving Tree: Please remember to generously give your gifts of hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves for the children of Cameron Community Ministries (preschool through teens) to decorate our Giving Tree. We will collect these items through next Sunday, December 15.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Please invite your friends and family to join us at 5 PM on Christmas Eve for our candlelight service.

Advent and Christmas Events:

December 8: Second Sunday of Advent with Pageant Pizza lunch
Join us in Hubbell Hall

December 15: Third Sunday of Advent with an original Cantata by Henry Griffin
Special Fellowship with cookie decorating
Final Sunday for Giving Tree donations to be accepted

December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24: Christmas Eve Service @ 5 PM

December 29: Jammies and Jingles @ 10 AM